

9/01/17 Akema Update, as of 1705:

- One of the two trailers west of the initial one that burned early on 8/31 started showing signs of a reaction at 1635 by emitting white smoke that eventually turned to heavy black smoke at 1728. It is believed that the trailer next and to the east started burning within 15-20 minutes. At around 1850 all indications were that the fire significantly subsided.
- Ground air monitoring to the east of the exclusion zone indicated constant readings of 0.3 PPM SO₂ at several time intervals between 1730 and 1850. The monitoring team checked the instrument calibration and the next reading at 1927 indicated non-detect. VOCs readings were between 0 and 0.2 ppm throughout the burning event.
- UC has determined that access to the facility is still unsafe.
- 1.5-mile radius evacuation still in effect.
- ASPECT recent flyover photos indicate that flood waters within the facility have receded significantly.
- At the request of the local jurisdiction and the Harris County Pollution Control, EPA started to collect flood water surface samples from the facility runoff at 4 locations plus background. A small residential area is located downstream from the facility in the path of the run-off.
- EPA will continue to maintain a rotational 24-hrs presence and air monitoring capabilities at the incident command operations center.

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